

Considered A Very Special Man Lewis D. Carter Retires as Part of KY Tech Family



As deputy executive director of the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), Lewis D. Carter, Jr. has enjoyed a second career where his major goal was to be an accessible leader and build a team atmosphere. For all intents and purposes, this special man will retire knowing he achieved his goal. And, according to many within the system, he did it with a style and grace befitting a winning coach because his “team” was built on respect, trust and a positive attitude. His “we are all in it together attitude” resonated positively across the system and consequently, he has become a valued member of the KY Tech family in the three short years he has been in the system. Make no mistake; Lewis Carter will be missed – for a variety of reasons when he officially retires on May 31, 2007.

Prior to joining career and technical education (CTE), Carter’s experiences as an educational leader are well documented. During those first “28.83” years in education, he served as a classroom teacher, coach, coordinator, assistant principal, principal, and director in the Monroe Co. school district. Even though all of these experiences were in academia, Carter understands the value of CTE and believes “technical education is now and will always be an integral part of the



Lewis Carter gets his blood pressure screened.

educational process.” Why? Quite simply, “To me, education is the key to success in life and it is our responsibility to use whatever means we have available to educate all of the students entrusted to us. CTE provides students with a formula for success because of the practical hands-on approach to learning,” says Carter. “A golden rule of mine is to put the good of the student first. It is our responsibility as technical education administrators and educators to provide our students with the prescription for success - this means working with business and industry representatives to stay abreast of new technologies to train our future workforce, as well as working with local school districts to ensure our students receive academic credit for technical programs.”



Mason Co.
ATC Habitat
for Humanity

Carter has always displayed a positive attitude with students to help build the confidence so necessary for them to succeed.



Construction Career Fair – Shelbyville Fair Grounds



Breckinridge
Co. ATC Nat'l
Technical
Honor
Society

During his tenure, Carter served under two executive directors; Emil Jezik and David L. Billingsley. During this time in KY Tech's long and rich history, the major systemic goal was *to achieve SACS/CASI Accreditation (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools -Council on Accreditation and School Improvement)*. And, once again, Carter found himself on a winning team when the KY Tech school system became the first technical education system in the nation to become SACS accredited in 2006.

“While I can’t take credit for the SACS Accreditation process, I’m pleased to have been in a position of leadership in helping ensure the success of the initiative,” says Carter. “The people in this system came together for the good of the whole and we were able to accomplish something that up to this point in time – wasn’t even in the vision of other technical education systems across the United States. That’s amazing and something that everyone can hang his or her hat on at the end of the day.”



Photo above: Carter and John Marks watch as former Executive Director Emil Jezik signs document for KY Tech to be officially accepted as candidate for SACS accreditation.

Lewis makes a point during an OCTE central office continuous improvement meeting.



Photo above: Lewis and David Billingsley at a SACS Accreditation Continuous Improvement meeting at Lake Barkley.

Supervising KY Tech Area Supervisors is one of the duties of the deputy executive director and Carter has this to say regarding his experience.

“Having an opportunity to work with all the KY Tech Area Supervisors has been, for me, a valuable experience because of the knowledge and wisdom that each of these people bring to the table when an issue arises in the system.”

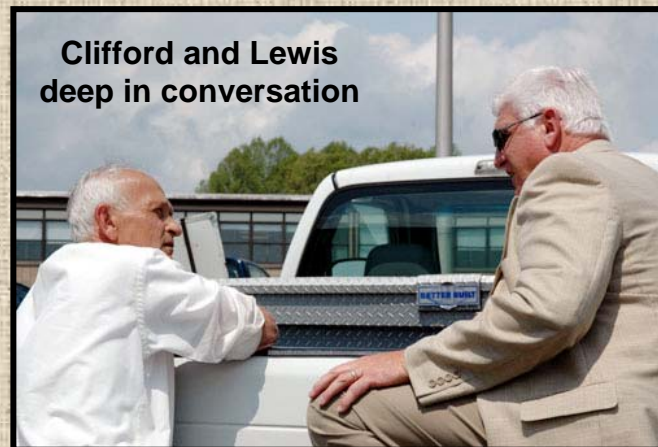


Photo (l to r): Barney Judd, Linda Floyd, Lewis Carter, Mary Stratton, Keith Dickinson and Clifford Wells

“In my opinion, Mary Stratton has a great vision for career and technical education because of the positions she has held throughout her career; Clifford Wells is the historian because he has a thorough understanding of where CTE has been and where it is going now – and, he can address issues from that unique perspective; Keith Dickinson is the Rock of Gibraltar because of his can do attitude; Linda Floyd always has a positive attitude and is the Energizer Bunny of the group; and Barney Judd, our newest area supervisor brings an analytical mind and a philosophy of how to connect the dots because of the work he has done at the local level. And, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention Mr. Phil Rudolph because he also brought unique qualities to the table. I knew Phil as a principal, School-to-Work coordinator and then in technical education as an area supervisor before he passed away,” says Carter. “Each of these people will always hold a special place in my heart because of the dedication they each have for career and technical education.”



Barney Judd and Lewis during a SACS Accreditation celebration



Marion Co. ATC National Technical Honor Society Ceremony – Lewis Carter is sitting between Commissioner Beth Smith and Mary Stratton.

As a tribute to his leadership, KY Tech Area Supervisors had this to say regarding their supervisor Lewis D. Carter, Jr.

“I would like to wish Lewis the best of luck and thank him for his support of the teachers, principals, area supervisors and the entire staff in OCTE. I have enjoyed working with him.”

Mary Stratton

“Lewis came to Frankfort eager to learn and eager to be a contributor. He listened to everyone carefully and learned quickly. He then took that knowledge and coupled it with his excellent ‘people skills’ to support our schools and our programs. When he is asked for help or assistance with an issue or a concern, Lewis acts on it right then-not tomorrow or next week. He has been a bright spot during the past three years. I value his leadership, his dedication to technical education, and his friendship. He deserves a vacation and I hope to be working with him in some capacity in the future.”

Clifford Wells

“It has been a privilege to have worked with Lewis these past three years. I could always count on him to make the right decisions because he has always keep in mind what was best for KY Tech. He is a man of high integrity and I respect that very much. I will miss that big handshake of his. Maybe down the road some place, I will catch up with him along a stream bank or golf course.”

Keith Dickinson

“Lewis Carter has a heart to match his stature. He has been able to transform an intimidating work environment into a harmonious one by listening and showing great compassion for others. He sets a great example in how to lead in a non-threatening manner. During the time he has served as my supervisor, he has always proven to be a trusting individual, one who is willing to listen and give good advice. It has been a privilege to have Lewis Carter as my boss and he will be missed immensely.”

Linda Floyd

“Lewis Carter is one-half kind heart and teamwork with the other one-half being service and dedication. That has made Lewis a great boss to work for and I will miss him.”

Barney Judd



Changing of the Guard...In keeping with his usual mantra of “Teamwork,” Carter has wholeheartedly welcomed Mike Kindred into the position that he will soon vacate. On June 1, 2007, Kindred will officially take over as OCTE’s new deputy executive director and Carter has helped to assure a smooth transition.

“As a principal, I have always liked Lewis Carter and his positive attitude with people in the system,” says Kindred. “When I accepted the position of deputy executive director, I knew that he would help answer questions for me in any way possible. I appreciate Lewis taking the time to mentor me about the

position and have enjoyed visiting the central office to see him during a normal workday. It’s been a pleasure listening to one coach, coaching another.”

“I have known Lewis for several years and he has one fault – poor taste in barbeque. We first met when we were both involved in School to Work. He was an impeccable host when we were in Tompkinsville on an assessment visit. The day was nearly perfect until he tried to feed us some of the local cuisine (incorrectly called barbeque). It was a sad day! One of the reasons I accepted the position of division director was to have the pleasure of working once again with Lewis, with the slim hope of guiding him to the enlightenment of true barbeque (mutton of course). Unfortunately, that mission failed,” says newly appointed Executive Director John Marks. “But, as we have worked together these last few years; it seems that *I have become the student*. I have learned the pleasure of a good cigar, the importance of clear communication, the skill of always finding the best in people, the art of listening and the incalculable value of a true friend. I hate to see Lewis leave. I wish him many happy days of fishing and playing with those grandbabies. I will sorely miss his calm steady hand, his big smile, and his sage advice. I don't have a brother by birth, but I certainly have a brother in spirit.”



Photo above: Lewis Carter and Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith.

“Lewis Carter has provided so much to our system. Just his years in education alone have been a tremendous asset, but his caring demeanor when it comes to our students and staff, really sets him apart. He has given 100 percent in all that he has done for the Office of Career and Technical Education and we will miss his presence. We wish him well in his retirement.”

**Commissioner Beth Smith
Department for Workforce Investment**

“Teamwork, understanding, commitment and dedication in making a plan come together are just some of the reasons that make Lewis Carter a very special man. I have had the pleasure and the privilege of working with him on two separate occasions spanning across two career paths. We first became acquainted during the early days of School-to-Work where I found him to be a coordinator who deeply cared about the students in his labor market, as well as a person who positively promoted the people he worked with. During the past three years we have worked together in OCTE and he is just as authentic now as he was when I first met him. I will truly miss his friendship, support and encouragement

because he has an uncanny ability to make stressful times a lot easier to handle. I considered Lewis a great friend prior to his arrival in OCTE and he still tops the list of people that I profoundly admire.”

**Karla Tipton
OCTE**

**Photo at left:
Karla Tipton and
Lewis Carter**

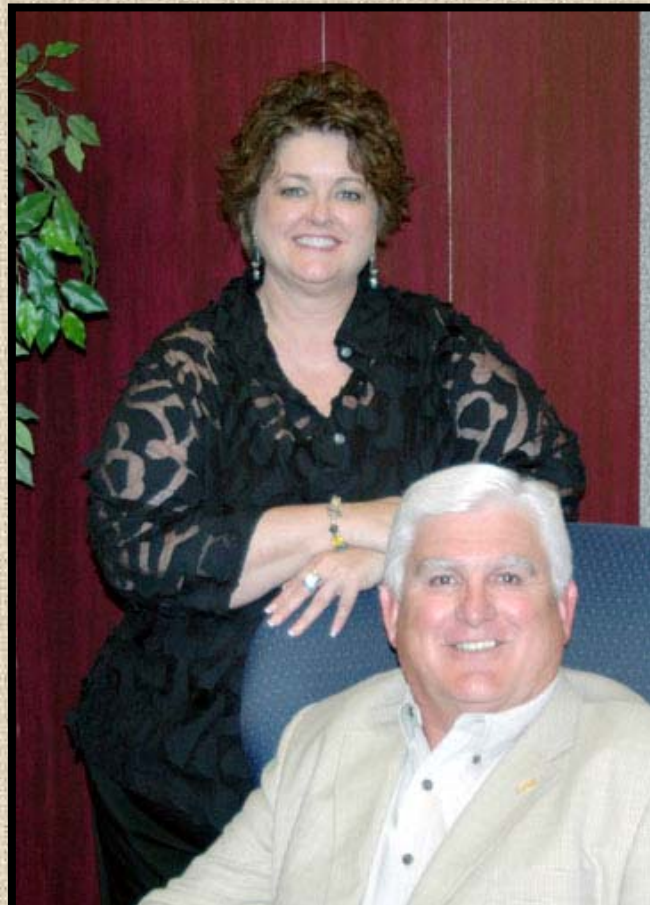




Photo at left: Clark Co. ATC Principal Karen Bothun, Welding Student Kayla, and Carter

“When Lewis Carter first arrived in Frankfort, he embraced everyone - not only to learn about the system, but because he enjoys people,” says Bothun. “In central office and the field alike, he has been someone that we could all go to when any type of need arose.”

Photo below: Carter and Russell ATC Electrical Technology Instructor Doug Keaton

“As a teacher in the field, I can say he is just genuine – a real person, with a real personality and a real ear to listen.”



Above: Russell ATC Principal Keith Parsons, Russell ATC CAD Instructor Stephanie Wheeler and Lewis Carter.

“Lewis is a great guy and we appreciate his support of our students and staff,” says Parsons.

“Lewis Carter is someone that I am happy to call a friend. As a professional colleague, he has supported the KY Tech Prep initiative at the state level as well as when he worked in the local school district. We appreciate all he has done to positively promote the integration of academic and technical education.”

Dr. Ahmed Sabie, KY Tech Prep State Director

“Lewis Carter is always welcome in Floyd Co. We appreciate his good nature and willingness to go the extra mile in order to make sure something is done correctly,” says Principal Lenville Martin. “His ability to put people at ease and treat them in a down home manner is a blessing as well as a trademark. We wish him well.”

“I want to take this opportunity to thank Lewis Carter for his support of KY Tech,” says Belfry ATC Principal Annette Harris-Ward. “We are privileged that he has served in a leadership capacity for the past three years because he has taught us as much as we have been able to teach him. It’s been a distinct pleasure and on behalf of my entire faculty and staff, we wish him a happy and healthy retirement.”



**Photo at left:
Juva Sizemore
(Kentucky Home
Builders
Association) and
Lewis at the 2nd
Annual
Construction
Career Fair held
at the Shelby Co.
Fairgrounds.**



Photo above: OCTE Ombudsman Bill Denton, Carter and OCTE Executive Assistant Don Smith.

“It has been a pleasure and wonderful experience working with Lewis these past few years. His demeanor and great people skills brought a much needed calming effect to the OCTE central office during a time of change and uncertainty. He has been a definite asset and will surely be missed.”
OCTE Ombudsman Bill Denton



Above photo (L to R): Pulaski Co. Superintendent Tim Eaton, former OCTE Executive Director David L. Billingsley, Carter, Pulaski Co. ATC Principal Beth Hargis and KY Tech Area Supervisor Clifford Wells take a moment to review plans for the new school. Pulaski Co. ATC opened in the Fall of 2006.

Photo below: Lewis Carter and former KY Tech Principal Justin Pate pose with Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC health sciences students who are students of Instructor Vicki Long.

“Mr. Carter is a kind man who shows a real interest in our students,” says Long.



Photo at left: OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter poses with the KY SkillsUSA State Officer Leadership Team during CTE Week 2007. From left to right: Larry Dejournett, Paducah ATC; Ruth Gray, Caldwell Co. ATC; Carter; Steve Phillippi, KY SkillsUSA State Director; and Steven Stubbs, Newport High School.

Question and Answer Session With Lewis Carter

Q: How did you become interested in vocational technical education?

A: Prior to accepting this position, I had retired from the Monroe Co. School District where I had an opportunity to work as the School to Work Coordinator for Region 9. It was during that time that I realized the value of career and technical education because some of our partners were already involved in CTE. It was an easy migration because I knew many people and could connect the dots back into the system. I was always impressed with CTE people because they rolled up their sleeves and jumped in for the benefit of all the students. And, when I actually arrived in OCTE's central office, I made it a point to get out into the field to learn about some of the present day issues and what it is really like for the teachers and administrators at the front line. Quite frankly, after working directly with so many CTE people across the state – I'm more impressed now than I have ever been in my 32 years in education.

Letcher
Co. ATC
Principal
Barbara
Ison and
Carter.



David and Lewis

Photo below: Harrison Co. ATC
Principal John Hodge shakes
Carter's hand. Don Smith and Jill
Ralston are in foreground.



Carter and JD Patton ATC Principal Ray Stanley.

Q: What do you consider to be your most important contribution in this field during your tenure?

A: Teamwork! Because of my attitude in working as a team, I feel that my most important contribution has been that people can call upon me for help without being chastised. I was a coach in an earlier career and once a coach – always a coach because teamwork is the winning combination in anything that you do.

I have more than enjoyed working with KY Tech teachers and administrators in the field, our KY Tech area supervisors, and everyone in OCTE's central office. I feel that they are more than co-workers and friends; to me, they will always be part of my family.

To help me better understand the personnel rules and regulations, the human resources coordinators on the 2nd floor of the tower have been invaluable and I am thankful for their help and guidance.

And, it's been a pleasure to serve in Governor Ernie Fletcher's administration. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of our senators and representatives to further the initiatives of CTE. They have always welcomed me into their offices and I appreciate their time and consideration.

Photo (l to r): Lewis Carter, Governor Ernie Fletcher, Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith and former OCTE Executive Director David L. Billingsley.





Carter listens intently to a teacher during a visit to the J.D. Patton ATC

Q: What do you think people will remember you by?

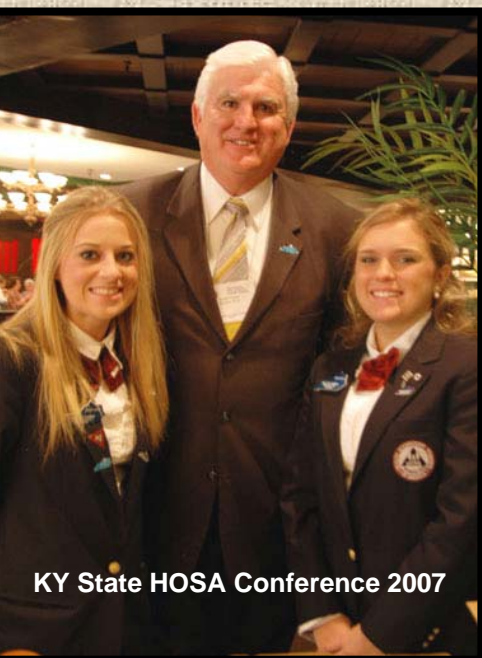
A: First of all, because I was already retired and this was an appointed position, I knew that my time in CTE would be limited. So, I came in with one major goal and that was to gain the respect of our employees by helping them achieve their goals. When someone accepts a position of authority, he or she can elect to be a dictator or work with people to create a united team where trust and respect are always on the forefront. I learned that the old adage is true – people don't always remember what you did, but they do remember how you treated them. I feel that people will remember me because I treated them with respect and kindness. And, I feel like we have been a team.

Q: What do you consider to be the single most important legislation impacting vocational-technical education?

A: Because of the impact of Perkins funding, it is my opinion that we all had better be on the same page to ensure that continued resources are forthcoming to further career and technical education in the Commonwealth as well as throughout the United States. Honestly, all educators should pay attention to legislation that impacts career and technical education – especially at the local level.

Q: Is there anything that you would have done differently during your tenure as deputy executive director?

A: No, not really because everything that I had control of was handled in a manner acceptable to me.



Q: What do you consider to be the positive influences that student organizations have on vocational-technical education participants?

A: It has been my pleasure to attend student organization conferences by taking part in judging competitions and representing OCTE. I'm impressed with the students who attend and want to say "Great Job" to the teachers and administrators who have made it possible for them to attend. Behind each student are their parents – but the next layer of support is their teacher. It's the combined efforts of parents, teachers and administrators who help our students learn how to become leaders - and it's because of their student organization activities that they gain the types of experiences and confidence they need to succeed in life.

Editor's Note:

In a lifetime, there are but a few people whose positive contributions are so significant that an indelible print is left on a large number of individuals. Lewis Carter - you are such a man – from the Knight in shining armor who will stop on the side of the road to help someone he doesn't even know - to the man who will be remembered for his “we are all in this together as a team.”

We appreciate who you are, and what your positive attitude has done to help the students, staff and administrators in OCTE. Your inspiration and kindness have enriched our lives – and people will remember how you treated them. This, my friend, is your legacy.

My favorite motivational speaker, Zig Ziglar says, “You can have everything in life you want, if you will just help enough other people get what they want. If Ziglar is right – you are blessed with a full and rich life. Enjoy!

Fran Dundon



Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter, Jr.

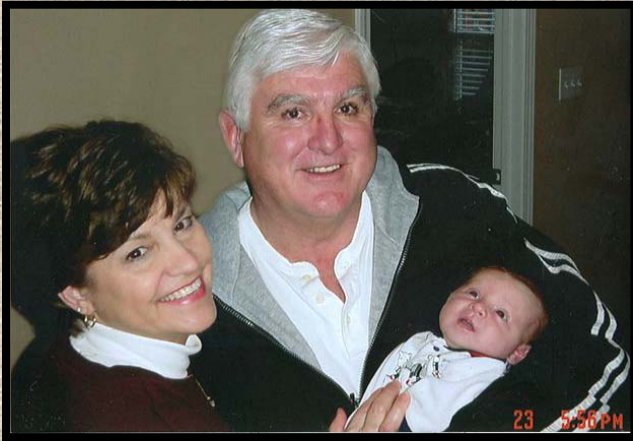
Lewis Carter loves good motivational phrases and believes in the following philosophy.

“A leader is best when people barely know that he exists; not so good when people obey and acclaim him; worse when they despise him. Fail to honor people, they fail to honor you; but a good leader, who talks little, when the work is finished they will say, we did this ourselves.”

Chinese Philosopher

Lewis and Sheila Carter will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on May 27, 2007. They have two children; Dallas, who is married to Leslie and Kela who is married to Mason Wright.

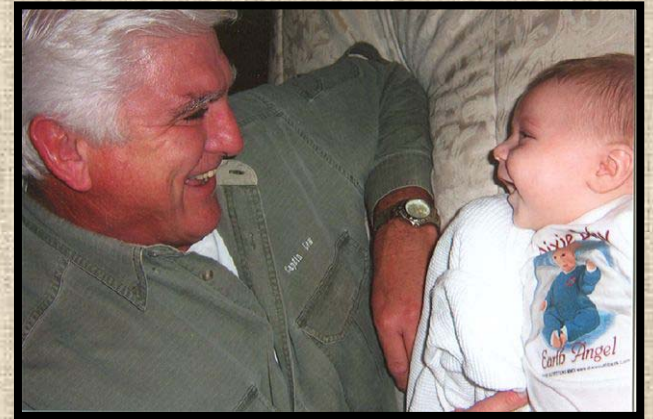
Dallas and Leslie have two children - Eli Washington and Hannah Elise. Kela and Mason have one son named Kason Carter.



Sheila, Lewis and Eli



Hannah



Papa Lew and Kason



Between the honey-do's and his grandchildren, Lewis Carter plans to spend time fishing. May the fishing Gods be with you!

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